

# EXHIBIT 2

Joseph L. Grant

May 31, 2019

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

RYSTA LEONA SUSMAN, BOTH  
INDIVIDUALLY AND AS LEGAL  
GUARDIAN OFSHANE ALLEN  
LOVELAND; AND JACOB SUMMERS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO. 8:18CV127

THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER  
COMPANY,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF: JOSEPH L. GRANT

DATE: May 31, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: A. William Roberts Jr. & Associates  
6135 Park South Drive  
Charlotte, NC

TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Plaintiff

REPORTED BY: SOLANGE RUIZ-URIBE, Court Reporter

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR., & ASSOCIATES  
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1 21-year-old tire on their vehicle?

2 A. I do, yeah. I think that's kind of way  
3 beyond what's realistic. But having said that, it  
4 really depends upon how well maintained and how well  
5 taken care of the tire is.

6 Q. Just by age alone, I'm not talking about  
7 the maintenance issue or impact or anything that  
8 happened to the tire, just by age alone is there a  
9 problem with a 21-year-old tire if it's in perfect  
10 condition?

11 A. You can't -- well, if it's in perfect  
12 condition, no. If it's been properly maintained,  
13 properly taken care of, realistically there isn't  
14 any real serious issue with it.

15 Q. All right. So the mere fact that this  
16 tire was 21 years old, and I'm not talking about any  
17 of the other issues you have in your report, you  
18 don't fault somebody for having a 21-year-old tire  
19 in their vehicle?

20 A. Well, I do if they don't know what the  
21 history is, what the maintenance is, really know  
22 what -- you know, how well that tire's been taken  
23 care of, and then I definitely do. So we're talking  
24 theoretical versus realistic.

25 Realistically, yeah, you wouldn't

1 want to see a 21-year tire on a vehicle unless  
2 someone has an extremely good understanding and  
3 knowledge that that thing has been, like you quoted,  
4 perfectly maintained, perfectly taken care of.

5 Q. But let's assume there was a tire that's  
6 perfectly maintained, perfectly taken care of, you  
7 would have no problem with that?

8 A. It's getting -- well, first of all, it's  
9 getting out there into a really unusual situation.  
10 There are really not that many tires out there. But  
11 having said that, yeah, tires like everything else,  
12 everything ages, everything changes over time, but  
13 tires age very gracefully and very slowly as long as  
14 they're properly maintained and properly taken care  
15 of.

16 Q. Do you know what type of warnings were  
17 placed upon this tire by Goodyear about age? What  
18 did it say on the side of the tire, like you need to  
19 take these things off at ten years or 20 years or 25  
20 years, what did it say about that?

21 A. Goodyear -- on the sidewall of the tire  
22 you are saying?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Goodyears are similar to all other tire  
25 manufacturers. You will not -- there is no age

1 limit, there is no warning from that perspective  
2 because it's much more complex than being able to  
3 just put a warning on the side of the tire.

4 Q. Okay. Does Goodyear have a policy in  
5 place as to how long somebody should have tires on  
6 the vehicle?

7 A. Goodyear's position is to -- it's my  
8 understanding of their position is, you know, it's  
9 not the chronological age of the tire that's  
10 important, it's what's the overall condition of that  
11 particular tire.

12 They are more interested in people  
13 thoroughly inspecting the tire, thoroughly looking  
14 at the tire and determining whether or not the tire  
15 is in a good enough condition to be able to continue  
16 to be used in service.

17 Q. Okay. Do you agree with that position,  
18 it's not necessarily the chronological age?

19 A. Yeah, I do. Technically they are  
20 absolutely correct.

21 Q. Okay. I've seen other tire manufacturers  
22 put an age limit on the tire. I think Michelin  
23 does, no more than ten years. Do you know -- do you  
24 disagree with their opinion on that?

25 A. Well, first of all, and I apologize but I

1 selling the vehicle with tires that are that old.

2 Q. What would these tires show from the  
3 outside if I looked at them?

4 A. Show the DOT date.

5 Q. But you just told me there's nothing wrong  
6 with a 20-year old tire, just in and of itself.  
7 Okay, it's 20-years old but Joe Grant said that's  
8 not a problem?

9 A. This is unreasonable. I think any average  
10 person would say this is unreasonably old, and  
11 especially a tire professional would think this is  
12 unreasonably old from the standpoint of not knowing  
13 what the service --

14 Q. But this age had nothing to do with this  
15 separation?

16 A. No, it didn't.

17 Q. Okay. Then so what, so what, I have an  
18 old tire on there, it had nothing to do with it. So  
19 what, right?

20 A. No, no. I disagree from that standpoint.  
21 No, it was an opportunity to get these tires out of  
22 service.

23 Q. You are kind of -- and I don't mean this  
24 disrespectful, Joe, but you're kind of talking out  
25 of both sides of your mouth, you say you should get